

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A thermal printer is used with a thermosensitive recording sheet, and records an image on the recording sheet. A predetermined discernment code is provided for the 5 recording sheet. A code reader inputs the predetermined discernment code. A system control block stores reference code, and checks the predetermined discernment code with reference to the reference code to judge whether the recording sheet is acceptable or unacceptable. If the 10 recording sheet is unacceptable, printing operation is inhibited and/or an alarm signal is generated.